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USSR

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POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA FOLLOWING MOSCOW CONFERENCE  
DECISIONS: PETKOV, "ShELK", LUPU, "KOcheVNIK", CRANE (1946)

From: SOFIA

To: MOSCOW

Nos: 11, 10

8 January 1946

[2-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR[i], 8th Department.

After PETKOV[ii] on behalf of the opposition

[13 groups unrecovered]  
[50 groups unrecoverable].

The attitude of "ShELK"[iii]

[44 groups unrecovered]  
[128 groups unrecoverable]  
[36 groups unrecovered]

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[Part II]

[93 groups unrecovered]

will, perhaps, be limited to liquidation of the monarchy and

[8 groups unrecovered]

[40 groups unrecoverable].

In this case [6 groups unrecovered] and will carry out such changes in the constitution as will bring BULGARIA into the Soviet system. Therefore we cannot leave the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the hands of the Communists. I am sure that the government will receive advice from MOSCOW to back down on this question. The British [8 groups unrecovered] better than the Americans. The Bulgarian Government will have to break up [1 group unrecovered], to detach several people and use them to reinforce [5 groups unrecovered] as if thereby carrying out the decisions of the MOSCOW Conference [iv]. However, the detaching of LUPU[v] in ROMANIA clearly shows that the USSR and its tools - the Communists - act in the same way everywhere." According to a report [88 from a source], "KOCHVNIK"[vi] on about 6 January had a meeting with CRANE[KREJN][vii], who [1 group unrecovered] advised him to put pressure on the members of the PLADNE Group[viii], so that they, while carrying out the instructions of the MOSCOW Conference, should without fail try to get the Ministry of Internal Affairs into their own hands and thereby keep out the monopolistic influence of the Communists. Remarks: According to information from all the above-mentioned sources, the British and Americans have become increasingly active in encouraging the demands of the opposition and in this way will undoubtedly try to strengthen their influence in the country.

No. 7.

8 January 1946

FEDOR[ix]

Footnotes: [i] VIKTOR: Lt General Pavel Mikhaïlovich FITIN.

[ii] PETKOV: Dr. Nikola D. PETKOV, leader of the Left-Wing Independent Agrarians, an opposition group in BULGARIA.

[iii] SHEIK: i.e. "SILK"; unidentified covername. Also occurs in SOFIA's Nos. 35, 34, 36 of 15 November 1945 (3/NBF/T2199), 48 of 22 November 1945 and 8, 3 of 2, 4 January 1946 (all unpublished).

[iv] The MOSCOW Conference of Foreign Ministers (British, U.S. and Soviet) in December 1945 advised the inclusion in the Bulgarian and Romanian Governments of two representatives of opposition parties or groups.

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- [v] ✓ LUPU: Dr. Nichola LUPU, head of the Democratic Peasants' Party, an opposition group in ROMANIA.
- [vi] ✓ KOCHVNIK: i.e. "NOMAD"; unidentified covername. First occurrence.
- [vii] ✓ CRANE: Major General John A. CRANE, U.S.A., Chief of the U.S. Military Representation on the Allied Control Commission for BULGARIA.
- [viii] ✓ PLADNE  
Group: The PLADNE (literally "NOON") Group or Left-Wing Agrarian Party, BULGARIA, which split off from the orthodox Agrarians ca. 1932; its leaders included PETKOV (Footnote [ii]).
- [ix] ✓ FEPOR: Unidentified covername. SOFIA addressee and signatory between 11 October 1945 and 26 April 1947 (both unpublished), also mentioned in SOFIA's No. 28 of 12 December 1945 (3/NBF/T2050).

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